DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Thursday, January 1, 2026

KARACHI

Sunset	05:54pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	07:16am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	12°C
Maximum	26°C
Humidity	56%
Outlook	Mostly Sunny

Arsenal end Villa's winning run; Chelsea and United both held

Pg.17 SPORT

A SPECTACULAR fireworks display illuminates the Sindh Governor House on New Year's Eve. —Dawn

Karachi streets remain unsafe for citizens in 2025

- Official data shows over 64,000 street crimes reported in outgoing year compared to 71,105 in 2024
- More than 46,000 citizens lost their cars / bikes, over 17,000 their cell phones in 2025

By Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: Although police have claimed a significant reduction in the overall crime rate for the outgoing year, muggers, carjackers and mobile-phone snatchers continue to haunt Karachiites in 2025, with official figures showing over 64,000 street crime incidents and more than 70 deaths resulting from these crimes.

The precise figure of 64,323 incidents is based on the number of FIRs registered during the outgoing year. However, the actual number of street crimes is believed to be much higher as there are a large number of victims who have either been turned away by the police or have chosen not to visit a police station to register a case of looting.

According to comparative street crime data of Karachi maintained by the police, a total of 64,323 incidents of street crimes — robbery, cell phone snatching, vehicle snatching / theft — have been reported in the outgoing year of 2025 as compared to a total 71,105 such incidents in 2024, showing a reduction of 6,782 street crimes.

The data show a total of 70 people were killed and 290 wounded by street criminals till the first week of December 2025, whereas in 2024 a total of 99 people were gunned down and 400 others injured by robbers.

The police say that during the same period of 12 months, a total of 17,706 mobile phones were snatched at gunpoint while during corresponding period in 2024, a total of 19,353 cell phones were snatched.

The police data say that 6,683 vehicles (302 cars and 6,381 motorcycles) were hijacked at gunpoint in 2025 as compared to 8,370 of last year.

As many as 39,934 vehicles (1,813 cars and 38,121 motorbikes) were stolen as compared to 43,382 vehicles of last year.

Analysis by expert

Analyst Dr Zoha Waseem, who teaches criminology at the University of Warwick, UK, and has done extensive research on policing and crimes in the metropolis, believes that a comparison of just two years is not a good benchmark as at least five- or 10-year data is required to assess whether crimes have been prevented or only a perception of "safe city" has developed.

She says there is no better data collection as all incidents are not reported because people still do not like to approach police.

She opines that maybe only half of the total cases are being reported as there is no estimation about unreported number of cases in the metropolis.

Dr Waseem says there is no study or research to assess people's perception about police or state as to whether any improvement has occurred in the public perception.

"There has been no research that public perception has been improved and people feel safer and the city as safe," Dr Waseem says.

"There is no study or survey that people's perception has improved and the people are happy about performance of the police or the government. I have not seen such thing and I am not sure about the extent of achievement of the law enforcers," she says, adding: "But if there is a trend that over a period of time, the number of crimes has gone down, then you could say they are doing good job."

Carjacking 'declines' due to use of technology

Citizens-Police Liaison Commission (CPLC) Chief Zubair Habib opines that snatching of vehicles and cell phones is on decline partly because of use of technology (installation of CCTV cameras).

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Javed Odho becomes acting IGP as Memon retires

KARACHI: The Sindh government on Wednesday appointed Karachi police chief Javed Akhtar Odho as the acting inspector general of police (IGP).

The change in command comes after incumbent IGP Ghulam Nabi Memon relinquished charge on Wednesday after attaining the age of superannuation.

According to a notification issued by Sindh Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, "Mr Allah Bux alias Javed Akhtar Odho, an officer of Police Service of Pakistan (BS-21), Additional Inspector General of Police, Karachi Range, is assigned the additional charge of the post of Inspector General of Police, Sindh, in addition to his own duties, until further orders."

Meanwhile, in his farewell message, the outgoing IGP said that he had prioritised "technology-driven policing" and "systemic investigation reforms" as key components of the policing strategy.

Mr Memon took charge as the Sindh police chief in March 2024. In his three-decades-long illustrious career, he also served in the Intelligence Bureau (IB) as a director from 2006 to 2008, and later as the provincial head twice between 2011 and 2016.

He is a recipient of the Sitara-i-Shujahat and Tamgha-i-Imtiaz for his professional achievements. —Staff Reporter

City receives first winter shower

KARACHI: Light rain was reported from almost all parts of the city in the small hours of Wednesday morning under the influence of a westerly wave currently affecting the region, the Met Office said.

According to the department's data, the maximum rainfall, 6mm, was recorded in Keamari followed by PAF Masroor Base (Mauripur) 5mm, North Karachi and Nazimbad (3mm each), Korangi and PAF Faisal Base (2mm each).

"There is no possibility for more rains in the city, though cloudy weather is prevailing," Met Office focal person Anjum Niaz Zaigham said.

He added that temperature might drop to a single digit in Karachi after Jan 4-5 under the influence of Siberian winds.

The Met Office has forecast dry weather with cool night for Thursday (today), with minimum temperature ranging between 13 degrees and 15 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature recorded on Wednesday was 14.5 degrees Celsius. —Staff Reporter

FIA declares KMC documents relating to cotton exchange building 'forged'

Rejects mayor's allegations of 'unlawful' action, says it's only assisting the ETPB under SC orders, seeks help in ongoing probe

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: The stand-off over the historical Karachi Cotton Exchange building has escalated further as the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) not only rejected the mayor's statement, in which he described the FIA's action as "unlawful", but has gone a step further, accusing the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) of relying on "fake" and "forged" documents to assert ownership of the building.

Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab a day earlier had challenged the FIA and the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) and declared their recent sealing of the heritage Karachi Cotton Exchange building on I.I. Chundrigar Road "unlawful". He also claimed that the building is "municipal land" owned by the KMC.

However, in an immediate reaction, the FIA came up with a sharp and strong reply, further deepening the controversy.

The FIA rejected the mayor's claim that the action was "unilateral", "hasty" and "unlawful", insisting that it was acting in aid of the ETPB under the Supreme Court orders.

"The FIA has been extending assistance to the EPTB in relation to retrieval/restoration of properties lying in trust with ETPB, in compliance with the operative directions contained in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Pakistan's order dated 16-11-2021," the letter stated.

The agency said the ETPB had formally sought the FIA's assistance for retrieval of the subject property and for initiating legal action after certain title and ownership documents "prima facie, appeared to be forged/fabricated".

Acting on this request, the FIA said it initiated a probe and "facilitated ETPB in retrieval/restoration of possession of the subject property on 12-12-2025".

Referring to historical records, the FIA said the property stood notified as Evacuee Trust Property through a Gazette of Pakistan notification dated August 9, 1963. The notification, it added, required any person having a lien or claim to submit the same within the stipulated period "failing which such lien/claim would be deemed to have been waived".

The agency maintained that based on the material available at this stage, "no claim was filed within the stipulated period before the competent Evacuee Trust forum".

The FIA also directly questioned the authenticity of documents relied upon by the Karachi Cotton Association (KCA), particularly a purported lease extension extract dated February 17, 2003.

"It has emerged, prima facie, that the purported lease extension extract dated 17-02-2003 produced/relied upon by KCA does not correspond with the relevant official record. In this regard, the custodian and record keeper concerned has also provided a statement under Section 161 of the CrPC to this

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Double-decker buses introduced again in city 'after 65 years'

Sharjeel says service will be available for public from today; buses to run between Model Colony and Zainab Market via Sharea Faisal

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Sindh government inaugurated the double-decker bus service in the metropolis on Wednesday, with Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon saying the double-deckers were "introduced again for Karachiites after 65 years".

Officials said the buses will be available to the public from Thursday (today).

They said that the buses would run between Model Colony and Saddar's Zainab Market via Sharea Faisal with stops near Malir Halt, Airport, Colony Gate, Natha Khan Bridge, Drigh Road, Nursery, Baloch Colony and Finance and Trade Centre.

A one-way ticket for commute via the double-decker bus would cost between Rs80 and Rs120, the officials added.

The service was inaugurated by Mr Memon and Local Government Minister Nasir Shah.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Memon, who also holds transport portfolio, recalled that the Sindh government had promised to introduce double-decker buses in Karachi by December 2025, pointing out that today was December 31.

He said the government aimed to provide transport facilities across the province in 2026, adding that Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah had also instructed to introduce "double-decker buses on every road in Karachi" in the coming year.

Acknowledging that public transport was a necessity, he expressed the government's intention to facilitate the people in this regard.

He said that over 125,000 commuters were using the Peoples Bus Service on a daily basis at a subsidised rate. "The Sindh government pays that subsidy to facilitate passengers."

In response to a question about criticism of the poor condition of roads, the minister said the Sindh cabinet had allocated more than Rs9 billion out of the budget just for roads in industrial areas to address complaints. He said work on several other projects was also under way, particularly mentioning the Shahrah-i-Bhutto.

'A gift to Karachiites'

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah hailed the inauguration of the new double-decker bus service in the city and described it as a special gift to the Karachiites.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, he said the launch marks a significant step toward modernising urban mobility in Pakistan's largest metropolis.

He extended his congratulations to the people on the commencement of this innovative service. "The people of Karachi deserve better travel facilities," he emphasised, underscoring his government's commitment to improving daily commutes.

Highlighting the transformative potential, the CM stated, "Today the bus has started; tomorrow the city will change."

He added that better travel for Karachi is no longer just a promise but a practical reality, with modern transport symbolising urban dignity and a convenient life.

DOUBLE-decker buses parked on a road for the inaugural event. —Fahim Siddiqi / White Star